

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jeffrey Kuhn, reg. no. 66,393 on April 27, 2010.

3. The claims have been amended as follows:

a. Replace claim 1 to read as of the following,

In Claim 1,

1. (Currently Amended) A method for routing a message relating to an entity between a second service and a first service in a message routing network, the method comprising:

(a) before routing the message in the message routing network, associating an identifier with the entity, the identifier provided by said message routing network responsive to authentication of the entity to the message routing network, the identifier indicating authentication of the entity to the message routing network;

(b) before routing the message in the message routing network, associating said identifier with an account of the entity at the first service responsive to said entity being authenticated to

Art Unit: 2442

the first service that supports said entity account, such that the identifier further indicates authentication of the entity to the entity account at the first service;

(c) receiving, from the second service with which the entity has an account, ~~[[a]]~~ said message including said identifier, said message received from the second service being directed to a mapped service, wherein said mapped service is an entity account-specific representation of said first service and acts as a proxy for said first service, and wherein said mapped service is operable to determine whether a route for said message needs to be modified prior to delivering said message to said first service, and wherein the first and second services ~~are controlled by~~ correspond to different application service providers that are each independent of the entity;

(d) authenticating a sender of said message by authenticating only said message routing network using said identifier included in said message; and

(e) when said message routing network is authenticated using said identifier and said mapped service determines that said route for said message does not need to be modified, translating, by said message routing network, said message for delivery to said first service, wherein said translated message includes said identifier and is directed from said mapped service to said first service.

b. Replace claim 15 to read as of the following,

In Claim 15,

15. (Currently Amended) A message routing method, comprising:

(a) providing a proxy service for messages relating to an entity transferred between a first application service provider and a second application service provider in a message routing network, said first application service provider and said second application service provider providing application services, wherein the first and second application service providers are each independent of the entity;

(b) before routing the messages in the message routing network, associating an identifier with the entity, the identifier provided by said message routing network responsive to authentication of the entity to the message routing network, the identifier indicating authentication of the entity to the message routing network;

(c) before routing the messages in the message routing network, associating said identifier with an account of the entity at said first application service provider responsive to said entity being authenticated to said first application service provider, such that the identifier further indicates authentication of the entity to the entity account at said first application service provider;

(d) receiving, from said second application service provider, a message including said identifier, said message received from said second application service provider being directed to said proxy service, wherein said proxy service is an entity account-specific representation of said first application service provider;

(e) authenticating a sender of the message by only authenticating said message routing network using said identifier included in said message; and

(f) when said message routing network is authenticated using said identifier, translating, by said message routing network, said message for delivery to said first application service provider, wherein said translated message includes said identifier and is directed from said proxy service to said first application service provider.

c. Replace claim 17 to read as of the following,

In Claim 17,

17. (Currently Amended) A method for authenticating services participating in routing of a message in a message routing network, the method comprising:

before the routing of the message in the message routing network:

(a) authenticating an enterprise to the message routing network;

(b) associating an identifier with the enterprise, the identifier provided by the message routing network responsive to authentication of the enterprise to the message routing network, the identifier indicating authentication of the enterprise to the message routing network;

(c) authenticating the enterprise to a first application service provider;

(d) associating the identifier with an account of the enterprise at the first application service provider responsive to the enterprise being authenticated to the first application service provider, such that the identifier further indicates authentication of the enterprise to the enterprise account at the first application service provider;

~~such that when a~~ (e) receiving said message including said identifier is received by a second service provider from the first application service provider, said message received from the first application server provider being directed to a mapped service, wherein said mapped service is an entity account-specific representation of a second application service provider and acts as a proxy for said second application service provider, and wherein said mapped service is operable to determine whether a route for said message needs to be modified prior to delivering said message to said second application service provider;

~~authentication of only~~ (f) authenticating the first application service provider by only authenticating said message routing network using the identifier included in the message, provides authentication of the first service provider, wherein the first and second application service providers are each independent of the enterprise; and

(g) translating, by said message routing network, said message for delivery to said second application service provider, wherein said translated message includes said identifier and is directed from said mapped service to said second application service provider.

d. Replace claim 21 to read as of the following,

In Claim 21,

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein authenticating the enterprise to a

Art Unit: 2442

first application service provider includes providing the identifier to the first application service provider.

- e. Replace claim 22 to read as of the following,

In Claim 22,

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein authenticating the enterprise to a first application service provider includes providing a provisioning token to the first application service provider.

- f. Replace claim 23 to read as of the following,

In Claim 23,

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
providing a confirmation message to the message ~~interchange~~ routing network indicating authentication of the enterprise to the first application service provider.

Reason for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior arts of records teach or suggest in combination features of before routing the messages in the message routing network, associating an identifier with an account of the entity at said first application service provider responsive to said entity being authenticated to said first application service provider, such that the identifier further indicates authentication of the entity to the entity

Art Unit: 2442

account at said first application service provider; receiving, from said second application service provider, a message including said identifier, said message received from said second application service provider being directed to said proxy service, wherein said proxy service is an entity account-specific representation of said first application service provider; authenticating a sender of the message by only authenticating said message routing network using said identifier included in said message; and when said message routing network is authenticated using said identifier, translating, by said message routing network, said message for delivery to said first application service provider, wherein said translated message includes said identifier and is directed from said proxy service to said first application service provider.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip C Lee whose telephone number is (571)272-3967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM TO 5:30 PM Monday to Thursday and every other Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Firmin Backer can be reached on (571) 272-6703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Philip C Lee/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2448

Application/Control Number: 09/820,964
Art Unit: 2442

Page 8